

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 SIL-01 PRS-01 AID-05 FRB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 OFA-01

OES-05 EUR-12 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 SS-15

IO-10 INT-05 NSF-02 EPA-04 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-04 CU-04

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R 080845Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMCONGEN AUCKLAND

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAF0 MACHINATO

USPAV KADENA AB

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NAHA 332

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, JA

SUBJECT: THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION OKINAWA

REF: NAHA 333 (NOTAL)

DEPT PASS USIA

SUMMARY: THE EXPO, WHICH SHOULD BE A FINE SHOW, OPENS IN OKINAWA JUNE 19, TO RUN TO JAN 18, 1976. WELL OVER A MILLION VISITORS ARE EXPECTED FROM OFF-ISLAND, INCLUDING MANY FROM THE U.S. ALONG WITH THE RUSSIANS, THE U.S. WILL BE THE MOST PROMINENT FOREIGN PARTICIPANT WITH A HANDSOME PAVILION ON THE THEME OF OUR COUNTRY'S ROLE WITH THE SEA. THE ISLAND HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED WITH NEW SUPER-HIGHWAYS AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL SORTS. THE STAUNCHLY NEGATIVIST LEFT ON THE ISLAND STILL COMPLAINS ABOUT EXPO, BUT HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH ITS CONSTRUCTION. REFTEL DESCRIBES SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF EXPO ON OUR SECURITY INTERESTS ON OKINAWA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SHOW- ON JULY 19 THE CROWN PRINCE WILL OFFICIALLY

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OPEN THE SIX MONTHS LONG INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION OKINAWA 1975 (EXPO). DESCRIBED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL B.I.E. RULES AS A SPECIAL EXPOSITION, AND BUILT ON A HANDSOME COASTAL SITE ON THE NORTHERN MOTOBU PENINSULA, IT SHOULD BE A DANDY SHOW. THE EXPO GROUNDS ARE NOW UNDERGOING THE LAST FRANTIC PREPARATIONS, BUT THEY APPEAR ON SCHEDULE. THE GOVT AND SPONSORS PLAN FOR FIVE MILLION ADMISSIONS TO THE SITE, BASED ON AN EXPECTED TOTAL OF 1.5 MILLION MAINLAND VISITORS. THE TIGHT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN JAPAN AT PRESENT LEAD SOME TO PESSIMISM AND LESSER EXPECTATIONS; THE KNOWN PROPENSITY OF JAPANESE TO TRAVEL AND LOVE OF A GOD SPECTACLE LEAD OTHERS TO EXPECT MUCH HIGHER FIGURES. PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY INTO OKINAWA DURING EXPO IS ROUGHLY 10,000 PERSONS A DAY, 8,000 BY AIR AND 2,000 BY SEA, ALTHOUGH, IF THE FAIR PROVES POPULAR, MORE CAPACITY CAN EASILY BE PUT ON.

2. THE FAIRGROUND IS A ROCKY HALF-MOON STRETCH OF COASTLINE, ORIGINALLY STUDDED WITH CYCADS AND A FEW SCATTERED FARM HOUSES. MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL VEGETATION AND NATURAL ROCK IS LEFT, DESPITE EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION AND LANDSCAPING WHICH INCLUDES A MAN-MADE BATHING BEACH. FROM THE HILLSIDE THE VISITOR LOOKS OFF OVER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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EAST CHINA SEA AND SEVERAL NEARBY ISLANDS. HE ALSO LOOKS OVER

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THE THEME PIECE OF EXPO, THE AQUAPOLIS, A HUGE SEMI-SUBMERSIBLE RIG (MUCH LIKE A DEEP SEA OIL DRILLING PLATFORM). GOVT SPONSORED EXHIBITS INCLUDE A LARGE AQUARIUM, THE OKINAWA PAVILION, AND A

HALL OF SHIPS. JAPANESE PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTICIPATED IN SEVEN GROUPS, MORE OR LESS ON ZAIBATSU LINES, EACH WITH ITS OWN PAVILION. THE MIDORI GROUP FOR INSTANCE HAS ICE AS ITS THEME, INCLUDING THE PROMINENT DISPLAY OF AN ANCIENT GLACIER CORE. ANOTHER, THE FUYO GROUP, HAS AN AMUSING DISPLAY OF "MECH-ANIMALS," LITTLE MACHINES PATTERNED ON THE MOVEMENT AND BEHAVIOR OF SEA ANIMALS IN A STUDY OF BIONOMICS APPLICATION. OVER THIRTY FOREIGN COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED, THE ONLY LARGE DISPLAYS BEING PRESENTED IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. ARE BY THE RUSSIANS, AUSTRALIANS, IRANIANS, CANADIANS AND ITALIANS.

3. U.S. PAVILION - IN VIEW OF OUR VITAL RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND SPECIAL TIES WITH OKINAWA, INCLUDING 28 YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE OF AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BASE SYSTEM, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE U.S. BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. USIS, OPERATING ON A \$5.6 MILLION BUDGET FROM CONGRESS, HAS PUT TOGETHER A WELL-CONCEIVED EXHIBIT ON THE THEME OF AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE SEA, PARTICULARLY THE ADVANCES WE HAVE MADE IN

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UNDERSEAS RESEARCH. STRESS IS ON CONSERVATION, BOTH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY. THE EXHIBITS INCLUDE, FOR INSTANCE, SOME OF OUR CURRENT HIGH-TECHNOLOGY SUBMERSIBLES, A MOCK-UP OF THE BASE OF AN OIL RIG, AND AN ANIMATED MODEL OF AN OCEAN THERMAL MACHINE. THE U.S. PAVILION IS LED BY COMMISSIONER GENERAL L.W. LANE, JR., THE PUBLISHER OF SUNSET MAGAZINE, WHO HOLDS THE PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR AND WILL BE THE ONLY COMMISSIONER GENERAL RESIDENT IN OKINAWA. HIGH LEVEL AMERICAN VISITORS TO THE EXPO ARE EXPECTED, CERTAINLY AT OUR NATIONAL DAY SCHEDULED OCT 13.

4. EFFECT ON OKINAWA - EXPO WAS DESIGNED BY THE GOJ AT THE REQUEST OF GOVERNOR YARA AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS TO CELEBRATE THE REVERSION OF OKINAWA, TO BE A CATALYST FOR NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07

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INFO: RUMJQB/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 83

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TAGS: PINT, SCUL, ASEC, JA

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THE ISLAND, AND TO PROVIDE A MAJOR IMPETUS FOR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT. EXPO ALSO APPARENTLY HAS THE ANCILLARY PURPOSE OF PUSHING JAPANESE INDUSTRY, IN THESE DAYS OF RESOURCE STRINGENCY, TO LOOK MORE IMAGINATIVELY AT THE OCEAN FOR WHAT IT CAN PROVIDE. OKINAWA HAS UNDERGONE DRASTIC CHANGES IN THESE THREE YEARS SINCE REVERSION. WHILE PART OF A GENERAL GOJ EFFORT TO RAISE EVERYTHING ON OKINAWA

TO MAINLAND STANDARDS, MUCH OF THE CONSTRUCTION IS TIED TO EXPO. FOR EXAMPLE, A NEWLY BUILT SUPERHIGHWAY GOES UP THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND, SPEEDING TRAFFIC TO EXPO AS WELL AS SPURRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BACKWARD NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND. FIGURES ARE HARD TO PIN DOWN, BUT THE GOJ HAS PROBABLY PUT TWO TO THREE BILLION DOLLARS INTO OKINAWA SINCE REVERSION FOR DEVELOPMENT OR EXPO RELATED PURPOSES. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN INTENSE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING DOZENS-ALL TOO MANY-HOTELS, AS WELL AS GOLF COURSES,

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DRIVE-INS, APARTMENT BUILDINGS, ETC. WITH STAGNANT OR SHRINKING INCOME FROM THE BASES, INEFFICIENT AGRICULTURE, AND POOR RECEPTIVITY TO INDUSTRY, TOURISM IS THE ONLY PILLAR LEFT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE OKINAWAN ECONOMY. LAST YEAR INCOME FOR OKINAWA FROM THE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION TOURISTS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$170 MILLION. DEBATE CONTINUES AS TO HOW MANY OF THE EXPO PAVILIONS WILL REMAIN (AND WHO WILL PAY FOR THEM), BUT THE ISLAND WILL CERTAINLY END UP WITH TWO MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS: THE EXPO SITE AND THE SOUTHERN WAR MEMORIAL SITES.

5. THE OKINAWAN REACTION TO THIS BONANZA SEEMS A MIXTURE OF CUPIDITY, BEWILDERMENT, AND COMPLAINT. ANTICIPATING A RETURN TO PRE-WAR SOMNOLENCE AFTER REVERSION, OKINAWANS WERE UNPREPARED FOR THE INTENSE CHANGES IN THE ISLAND AND THEIR LIVES THAT HAVE OCCURRED. IN GENERAL THEY ARE FAR BETTER OFF-AS CAN BE SEEN IN THE NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND QUARTER MILLION CARS ON THE ROAD. STILL, MOST PEOPLE REMEMBER FONDLY THE CHEAPER PRICES OF THE PAST. THE POLITICALLY DOMINANT LEFTISTS POUND HEAVILY ON INFLATION, CHARGING THAT THE GOVT HAS PAID INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THE "DEMERITS" OF EXPO. OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE INDOMINABLY NEGATIVIST OKINAWAN LEFT, SUCH AS THE TEACHERS UNION, ALSO HOME IN ON EXPO,

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OPPOSING SCHOOL TOURS FOR INSTANCE, CLAIMING THAT EXPO WILL BE A "BAD INFLUENCE" ON CHILDREN. HOWEVER, DESPITE THEIR CONTINUED VOCAL OPPOSITION, THE SOCIALIST INCLINED KENROKYO LABOR UNION HAS DONE NOTHING SIGNIFICANT TO INTERFERE WITH EXPO, UNDOUBTEDLY REALIZING ITS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO THE ISLAND, AND THE EMBARRASSMENT THAT FAILURE WOULD CREATE FOR THE REFORMIST ELECTED PREFECTURAL GOVT. MOST OKINAWANS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE SHOW TOO.

6. THE SECOND PART OF THIS REPORT (REFTEL) DESCRIBES THE CONCERN OF THE POLICE ABOUT RADICAL TERRORISM AT EXPO AND THE EFFECT OF EXPO ON OUR MILITARY INTERESTS ON OKINAWA.

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